

Epi Update for Friday, July 27, 2018
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Disaster preparation and response resources**
- **Cooking for large groups**
- **In the news: Australia eyeliner warning over lead-poisoned children**
- **In the news: Teen gets hookworm infection after friends bury him in sand**
- **Infographic: Are you prepared?**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Disaster preparation and response resources

Whether due to ice and snow, flooding or tornadoes, natural disasters are a year-round risk for Iowans. Preparation and proper response are key and there are many resources available from IDPH and other agencies.

Before a disaster, get prepared by visiting CDC's *Are you prepared?* page at www.cdc.gov/phpr/areyouprepared/ to get a kit, make a plan and be informed.

The IDPH website also has a dedicated page for flood and tornado-related disease precautions and information at idph.iowa.gov/flooding. This page addresses common concerns following such disasters, such as tetanus vaccination guidelines, flooded wells, food safety, mold and pets. Several of the documents are also available in Spanish.

Communication is a vital part of any disaster response. Since 2004, IDPH has utilized a system called the Health Alert Network (HAN) to link Iowa's emergency response community and state government officials through a centralized information sharing and emergency notification system. The HAN includes an internet-based messaging system, document library, radio communications, and redundant communication systems. It is not intended to be a public warning or alerting system. For more information about the HAN, visit www.iowahealthalert.org.

Cooking for large groups

IDPH has investigated multiple outbreaks this year that have involved individuals who prepared food for large groups. Untrained food handlers might not always be familiar with some important food safety considerations that apply to cooking large amounts of food.

USDA and FSIS have published detailed guidelines to help volunteers prepare and serve food safely for large groups such as family reunions, church dinners

and community gatherings. The guidelines are also important to consider when donating or serving large amounts of food following a disaster.

Cooking For Large Groups: A Volunteer's Guide To Food Safety can be found at www.fsis.usda.gov/shared/PDF/Cooking_for_Groups.pdf

In the news: Australia eyeliner warning over lead-poisoned children
www.bbc.com/news/world-australia-44933354

In the news: Teen gets hookworm infection after friends bury him in sand
www.wxii12.com/article/hookworm-infection-1532594664/22556952

Infographic: Are you prepared?



To view in full size, visit www.cdc.gov/phpr/infographics/00_docs/Emergency-kit-infographic_508.pdf

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

None

Have a healthy and happy week!

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Iowa Department of Public Health

800-362-2736